

BRITISH AND FOREIGN
ORTHOPÆDIC INSTITUTION,
FOR
INCREASING THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENTS
FOR THE
PREVENTION AND REMOVAL
OF
WEAKNESS, STIFFNESS, CONTRACTIONS, AND DEFORMITY
OF THE SPINE, CHEST, AND LIMBS,
AS THE SAME OCCUR IN THE UPPER AND MIDDLE CLASSES, AND FOR THE PROMOTION
OF ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITALS FOR THE POOR.

(Provisionally Registered according to 7 and 8 Vic. c. 110.)

STATEMENT,
SHOWING
THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS INSTITUTION TO THE PUBLIC,
ITS OBJECTS, AND MANNER OF WORKING.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED FOR THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ORTHOPÆDIC INSTITUTION,
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BRITISH AND FOREIGN ORTHOPÆDIC INSTITUTION.

STATEMENT.

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1. THE cases which require the aid of that department of the medical profession called Orthopædic Surgery, consist of local or general muscular weakness in the trunk and limbs, and various kinds of distortions and contractions, and stiffnesses of these parts—as lateral curvature of the spine, with lateral projection of the chest, posterior curvature and projection of the spine from disease or otherwise; contractions and distortions of the chest, malposition of the shoulders, hips, and other parts; stiffness of the joints, contractions and deformities of the limbs—as stiff elbow joint, stiff hip joint, stiff knee joint, stiff ankle joint, bent knee, in knee, out knee, in ankle, out ankle, bent thigh, bent leg, flat feet, the various forms of club foot and club hand, many cases of local paralysis, with or without distortion of the affected parts, &c.

Many of these cases are occasioned by weakness, others by accident or disease; but whatever be the cause of their occurrence, they distress the mind and frequently destroy the best prospects of those in whom they exist; while some, as contractions of the chest and deformities of the spine, also affect the system most injuriously.

It is considered that upwards of one-twentieth of the whole population of Great Britain and Ireland, or upwards of one million three hundred thousand persons, are severally labouring under some one or more of these complaints. A vast number of the cases admit of perfect restoration, while there are but few which are of such a nature as to preclude all benefit from this source.

These cases are continually occurring among all classes of society in all parts of this and other kingdoms; but they have been hitherto commonly left to the management of quacks and empirics, who rarely do any good, and often entail much mischief upon the sufferers.

In order to provide for the wants of the people so afflicted in the neighbourhood of their respective homes, it is the purpose of the British and Foreign Orthopædic Institution to open PRIVATE ORTHOPÆDIC ESTABLISHMENTS, similar to one now in operation in London, in various populous Districts throughout GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, and to treat under an improved, and very successful system introduced and practised by Mr. Amesbury, cases of Weakness, Stiffness, Contractions, and Deformity of the Spine, Chest, and Limbs, as the same occur in the Upper and Middle Classes. Such an extension of Establishments, it is obvious, could only be accomplished by an Institution similar to that now proposed.

It is intended that wherever the Orthopædic Institution has an Established Branch in operation, measures shall be taken, in connexion with the inhabitants of the district, to provide some hospital or other accommodation for the poor,

so that the means of relief and cure which it will offer to the public, may be available to them, as well as to the upper and middle classes.

The arrangements of the Institution will be directed not only to the removal of existing Deformities, &c., through legally qualified medical Gentlemen, *instructed in the practice of Orthopædic surgery in general, and in the system of treatment to be sanctioned by this Institution in particular*, but also to the providing of means which will tend to prevent their occurrence.

Should circumstances render it expedient, similar Establishments may be carried on in various localities in foreign parts, which might in some instances prove of great benefit to the inhabitants as well as to visitors from this country.

It is not intended, however, to open Private Branch Establishments in any of the districts in this country, or in foreign parts, until it has been *previously ascertained* that such Establishments will be acceptable to, and probably well supported by, the Public in such districts. Each of these Establishments will be opened and carried on in a Private Dwelling House, hired in a convenient and healthy Locality, and situated in the midst of several thousand persons requiring the assistance of Orthopædic surgery.

Among the advantages which many Private BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS will afford to the patients, would be the facility it would give for their removal from one district to another, where change may be deemed desirable, from delicacy of health or other causes; also where expense is an object (and this is the case with a large majority), patients residing in the country may resort to a neighbouring Establishment, and thus avoid frequent, long and expensive journeys, or a protracted residence in London.

One of the most frequent and most injurious of the complaints above mentioned is

Lateral Curvature of the Spine.

This deformity commences commonly, though not always, during the growth of the Body, and if appropriate remedies be not resorted to, it continues to increase more or less rapidly to the latest period of existence. When unchecked by treatment, it is most insidious in its progress; it more or less rapidly undermines the strength and health, and, distressing all the vital functions, commonly in proportion to its severity, it is to be regarded as a fruitful source of weakness and of diseases that too often cut off the sufferers prematurely, and not unfrequently in the very prime of life.

The mental and bodily sufferings which this deviation of the Spine occasions in its more advanced stages especially, are very great, though rarely understood by any except those in whom it exists.

Lateral Curvature may often be prevented from developing itself by appropriate exercises, and the rational use of properly constructed stays.

In its early or incipient stage, Lateral Curvature may be removed commonly in periods varying from three to four months.

In its more advanced stage, accompanied with Deformity of the bones of the Chest, this complaint requires for its removal periods which vary with the state of the parts, from four to twelve months. In its still more aggravated forms a longer period than this is necessary.

When this description of Curvature has attained its worst forms, the Spine and Chest cannot be restored, but the deforming process can be at once stopped; and the cases are very few, even of the worst description, in which some improvement in figure cannot be produced, and also much relief and comfort afforded.

The treatment of Lateral and other Curvature of the Spine

To be sanctioned by this Institution is founded upon anatomical, physiological, medical, surgical, and mechanical principles, and has for its object the relief and restoration of the Spine and Chest, and the re-establishment of the health and strength of those submitted to its influence. The means employed not only have the effect of improving the health and figure, but also favour the natural development and strength of the body.

Distortions of the Spine from Disease.

Distortions of the Spine, which are preceded by disease, are commonly backward. These distortions occur at any part of the Spinal Column, and are often accompanied with neuralgic pains in the limbs and other portions of the body; also with abscess in the loins, thighs, &c., and very frequently with paralysis of the lower extremities, and of other parts.

The Treatment,

In these cases, is principally mechanical. The apparatus which the Institution will use produces very great relief and comfort to the patients, and favour the healing process in a very remarkable degree. Commonly under their action the disease in the Spine subsides; the abscesses arising from the disease heal; the paralysis is removed, and the distortion of the bones diminished. If, however, there has been much destruction of the parts in the seat of the disease, the natural figure of the Spine cannot be restored.

Deformities of the Chest,

Producing a diminution in its capacity, occasion weakness of the system, and predispose to diseases of the internal organs, especially those of the lungs and heart.

The forms of this complaint most prevalent are Lateral Contraction or flattening of the sides of the Chest; anterior projection, commonly called chicken-breast, and unnatural flatness, irregular projections and concavities occurring in various parts of its circumference. All these varieties are sometimes accompanied with lateral curvatures and other distortions of the spine.

During the growth of the body nearly all the varieties of simple distortion of the Chest admit of removal, but after this period this desirable object cannot always be accomplished.

Simple Distortion of the Limbs,

As they occur in the knee and ankle, are easily removed and commonly cured with facility. Sometimes the deformity is removed at once, without pain or operation; after which the strengthening process soon completes the cure. A longer period is necessary for restoration when the bones themselves are also deformed.

Contractions of the Muscles,

Which have become permanent, fixing the bones of the limbs in particular positions, are usually removed with facility, and the freedom of motion readily restored.

Contractions produced by destructive and long continued disease

Always yield to the treatment adopted, except when the bones that form the affected joints have become united together by bone, forming thereby a solid bony union which it is not safe to attempt to remove.

Deformities of the Limbs accompanied with paralysis

Admit of removal with great relief and comfort to those in whom they exist ; but when the paralysis is complete in any of the muscles, perfect restoration of the natural powers of the affected parts cannot be obtained.

THE system of treatment by means of which the advantages above alluded to are gained, is now in full operation in a private Orthopædic Establishment, conducted by Mr. Amesbury, where the efficacy of its several modifications has been proved in a large number of cases to be in accordance with the above statement, and in all respects most satisfactory.

The means employed in this Establishment for the relief or correction of the cases above named, and the several varieties of the same, are principally mechanical ; although other surgical and also medical aid are had recourse to, as the same may be required ; the principle being to use such appliances, and such other surgical and also medical assistance, as most conduce to the improvement of the health and strength, and the correction of the figure.

SEC. 2. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, AND OTHER TESTIMONIALS IN FAVOUR OF THE FORMATION OF THIS INSTITUTION, AND OF THE PRACTICE RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION.

THE early promoters of this Institution have taken pains to ascertain the importance of Mr. Amesbury's inventions and practice, and their estimation by the public, and by medical gentlemen who have become acquainted with their effects by experience or observation ; and it seems advisable to submit the following documents, which, independent of other sources of information, will be found very satisfactory.

The document No. 1 is the Report of a Committee of gentlemen in the legal profession, who were requested to investigate the original documentary evidence laid before them on the subject of Mr. Amesbury's practice, and to report thereon.

No. 1.

WE, the undersigned, have carefully perused a great number of letters and other documents, received from patients who have been under Mr. Amesbury's treatment for Curvature of the Spine, and other distortions and weaknesses, as they occur in the spine, chest, and limbs ; and also various testimonials from medical men who have known such patients both before and after such treatment.

We consider these documents to contain the strongest evidence of the beneficial effects and successful results of Mr. Amesbury's modes of treatment, and also of the gratitude of the parties for the kind and zealous attention of Mr. Amesbury, while they were under his professional care.

We consider also, that these documents fully bear out the statement in the Prospectus put forth by the promoters of the British and Foreign Orthopædic Institution, viz., That it would be most advantageous to persons so afflicted, in various parts of this and other countries, if the benefit of these modes of treatment could be extended to them, by Branch Establishments for private patients, and by Orthopædic hospitals for the poor, to be carried out in their several localities, by means of an Institution with adequate capital, as therein proposed.

JAMES MARSHALL, 23, Upper Woburn Place, } London.
EDWARD COOKE, 4, Doughty Street, }
PIERCE MAHONY, 23, William Street, Dublin.

London, 1845.

Many of the documents examined by the above Committee express the feelings of the writers respecting the important advantages which, in their

opinion, would result to the public from the proper introduction and management of Mr. Amesbury's modes of treatment in spinal and other complaints herein mentioned. The following are specimens of the Letters and other Documents, the originals of which were examined by the above Committee.

Duffryn, Glamorganshire.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE read the paper respecting the Orthopædic Institution, and I heartily wish the undertaking every success, as it will be the means of extending that benefit derived from your modes of practice into various parts of the country, which only those who have good means can now obtain.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to you for the admirable cure you have effected in a case of curvature of the spine, which occurred in one of my near relatives, and you will be glad to hear that her health has improved in full proportion.

As I have had the pleasure of witnessing the progress of some other of your patients, should so uninfluential a testimony as mine be of the slightest service in promoting the object in view, pray refer to me.

I am, &c.

J. BRUCE PRYCE.

To Joseph Amesbury, Esq.

Sulham House, Reading.

DEAR SIR,

I RETURN you the paper of questions, with my answers, which I have forwarded to be laid before the Committee, and I can assure you it gives me great pleasure to bear testimony to the very great and important benefit which my relative has derived from your kind and excellent treatment. He had been suffering so long before your name was mentioned to us, that, when he was placed under your care, his case was so bad that we entertained little or no hope that you would be able to do him much good. It was, in point of fact, almost grasping at a straw—we altogether feared that he must be helpless, and a cripple *for life*. So serious an injury had been done to the spine before you took the case in hand, that it was beyond all human skill to restore his *figure entirely*. But (as I have most conscientiously stated in my answers to the printed questions), a recovery in health, strength, power of action, growth of body, and a generally renovated constitution have resulted from your treatment of him to an extent beyond the utmost limits of our hopes; and I assure you, that we are most grateful to you, under Almighty God, for the blessings which you have conferred upon him.

I am truly glad that it is purposed to extend the great benefits of your system by the establishment of the Orthopædic Institution. I consider it calculated to be of the greatest general utility, and to be most valuable to the public at large.

You will be glad to hear that my young relative continues quite well, and is enabled to take constant daily exercise of all kinds, like any other boy.

With every respect, &c.

To Joseph Amesbury, Esq.

J. W.

Bramblys, Basingstoke.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HIGHLY approve the proposed Orthopædic Institution, and I believe it will form a most valuable establishment. I cannot speak in too strong terms of approbation of the arrangements in Devonshire Street, for the comfort and accommodation of the patients. Two members in my own family, as well as other patients I have recommended to your care, have derived the most perfect benefit

from your treatment; and I should be wanting in gratitude were I not to express, whenever an opportunity offers, my sense of obligation and thankfulness for your extreme kindness, skill, and attention to them.

I must also add, that your plan succeeded when others had failed.

Believe me, &c.

To Joseph Amesbury, Esq.

THOMAS WORKMAN (*Surgeon*).

Many of the individuals state to the above Committee, in answer to printed questions sent to them, that they had had many opportunities of seeing very great benefit derived from Mr. Amesbury's modes of treatment in cases of deformity of the spine, chest, and limbs, and many cures after the usual means had been tried for years without success.

One witness states, "I have seen fifty-nine cases of lateral curvature of the spine treated by Mr. Amesbury in one of the classes attending his Private Orthopædic Establishment; twenty-one of which were cured, and all the others were much benefited, and some nearly cured, but these were considered by Mr. Amesbury too bad to admit of perfect restoration." This witness testifies to the beneficial influence of the treatment on the health and strength, as well as on the figure.

Another witness says, "I have known fifty cases of curvature of spine treated by Mr. Amesbury, in his Private Orthopædic Establishment (not in the class alluded to by the last witness), besides deformities of the chest and limbs, with very great advantage to the patients. Twenty-seven of these cases of lateral curvature of the spine were cured, and twenty-three much improved, but not quite restored. I have observed that the health and strength are much improved by the means employed for the correction of the figure."

The following documents, Nos. 2 and 3, are the Reports of a Committee of three physicians practising in London; two of whom were formerly surgeons in the army. It is considered that the experience of these gentlemen, in the departments of the profession to which they are known to have specially devoted their attention, peculiarly adapts them for conducting the investigation which led to their reports.

No. 2.

WE, the undersigned, having been requested to investigate and report on the effects of Mr. Amesbury's treatment on the health and figure, in cases of lateral curvature and other distortions of the spine, also distortions and contractions of the chest, deformities of the limbs, and muscular weaknesses, met together for these purposes at his private Orthopædic Establishment, where we saw and examined a variety of cases in persons of different ages, from two years old to about forty, suffering from these complaints. In some of the cases of deformity of the limbs and lateral curvature of the spine, which were brought before us, the deformed parts had been restored to their natural figure by Mr. Amesbury's treatment; and in other cases various degrees of improvement had been effected, according to the time they had been under his care. The improvement which we saw in the spine, chest, and limbs, in all the cases, was most manifest; and in some bad cases of lateral curvature of the spine, and distortion of the chest, the extent of improvement effected by him was exceedingly striking.

The healthy appearance and development of the body in those under treatment was very satisfactory; and where the health was delicate, or had been impaired by the deformity, it was much benefited by the means employed by him for the correction of the distorted figure, and for strengthening the system. The patients are allowed free exercise in the open air, and thus all injurious confinement is avoided.

We consider Mr. Amesbury's treatment, in the above-stated cases, scientific, and perfectly safe, as well as very successful in its results; and we are of opinion that

the general introduction of Mr. Amesbury's practice, through medical gentlemen properly instructed in the same, would be highly advantageous to the public.

HENRY DAVIES, M.D., 18, Saville Row.

JOHN JAMES FURNIVALL, M.D., 3, Weymouth Street.

London, 1845.

No. 3.

CONJOINTLY with Dr. Henry Davies and Dr. Furnivall, I have this day examined a number of patients now under treatment by Mr. Amesbury for various deformities of the spine, chest, and limbs.

Not having had in my own person any previous experience of Mr. Amesbury's method of treatment, the inquiry was conducted by first examining plaster casts taken in each case when the treatment commenced, and contrasting these with the present condition of the patients as they appeared before us.

The large majority were examples of lateral curvature of the spine, some of a highly aggravated character, and in all there appeared a marked improvement, this of course varying according to the extent of the original deformity, and the length of time during which the treatment had been applied.

We also examined in the same way various cases in which the lower extremities were involved, and the results exhibited were also highly satisfactory.

I quitted Mr. Amesbury's establishment impressed with a strong conviction that that gentleman's treatment by support and pressure, in a right direction, aided by the ingenious methods of exercise employed, was the best and most rational I had yet seen.

It appeared to me that much of the success depended on the great mechanical skill displayed by Mr. A. in adapting his system of efficient support properly in each respective case, and this without any undue restraint, or impediment to the natural actions of the lungs or heart.

It is probably for this reason, aided by the assiduous employment of proper exercises, that muscular development and a generally improved state of the health appeared to coincide with the obvious diminution of deformity.

The two gentlemen with whom I had the honour of being associated, have, I believe, opportunities of reporting, founded on a larger practical acquaintance with the results of Mr. Amesbury's method of cure. In my own case I have been obliged to limit my testimony to observations made at one inspection only, and in the manner already named.

J. S. CAMPBELL, M.D., 26, Weymouth Street.

London, Nov. 8th, 1845.

Diagrams of Cases before and after Treatment.

THE following diagrams taken from casts, and drawings of cases, will serve in some measure to illustrate the effects of the system of treatment introduced by Mr. Amesbury, and which it is the especial intention of this Institution to extend to all classes of society in various localities, as set forth in the Prospectus. This the Institution will do through medical gentlemen duly instructed in this department of their profession, and practically acquainted with the application, management, and operations of the means by which such results are obtained.

The Institution will not be limited, however, to Mr. Amesbury's apparatus and modes of treatment, but will take measures to obtain, for the benefit of the Public, every valuable improvement that might be discovered or invented, either in this or other countries.

It is not intended to give drawings of all the varieties of distortion, stiffness and weakness, which require Orthopædic treatment. It will be sufficient to show some of the more common, and the effects of the treatment employed.

THE FIGURES ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE PAGE SHOW THE STATE OF DEFORMITY IN EACH CASE, AND THOSE ON THE RIGHT HAND THE EFFECTS OF THE TREATMENT ADOPTED.

Wry Neck, accompanied with Lateral Curvature of the Spine.

The same Person.
Age 14 Years.

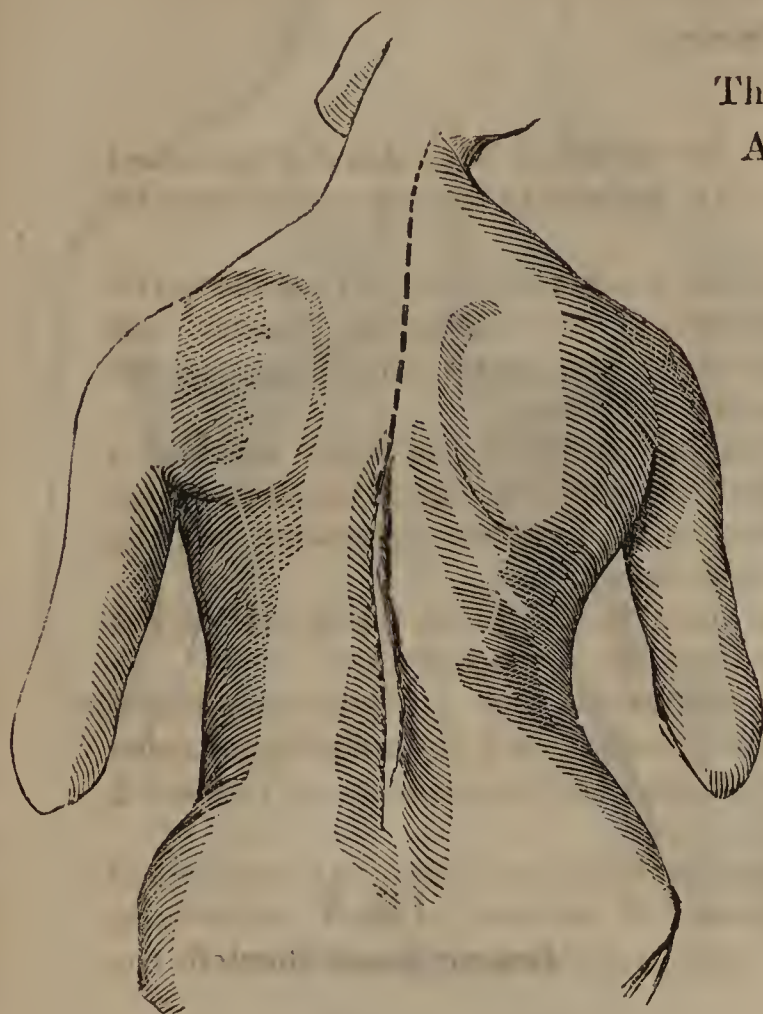


Fig. 1.
Progress of Deformity.

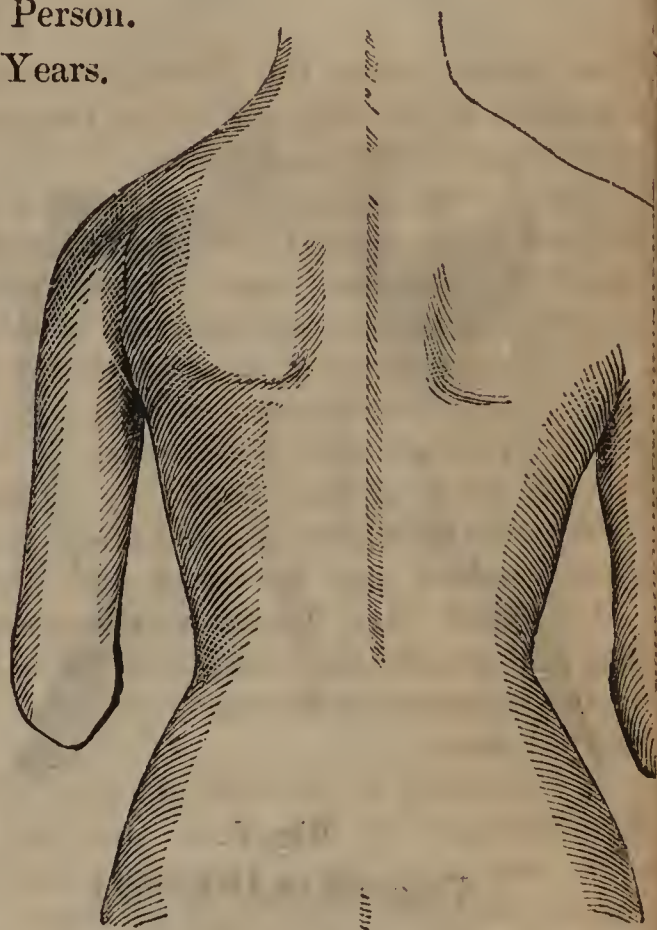


Fig. 2.
Improvement effected.

The same Person.
Age 6 Years.

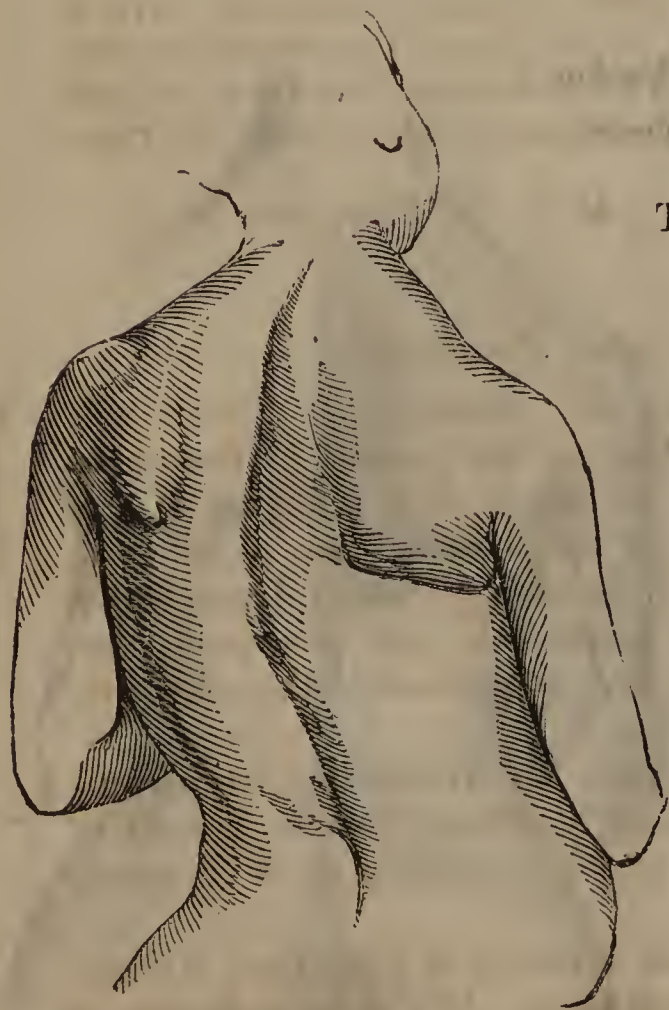


Fig. 3.
Progress of Deformity.

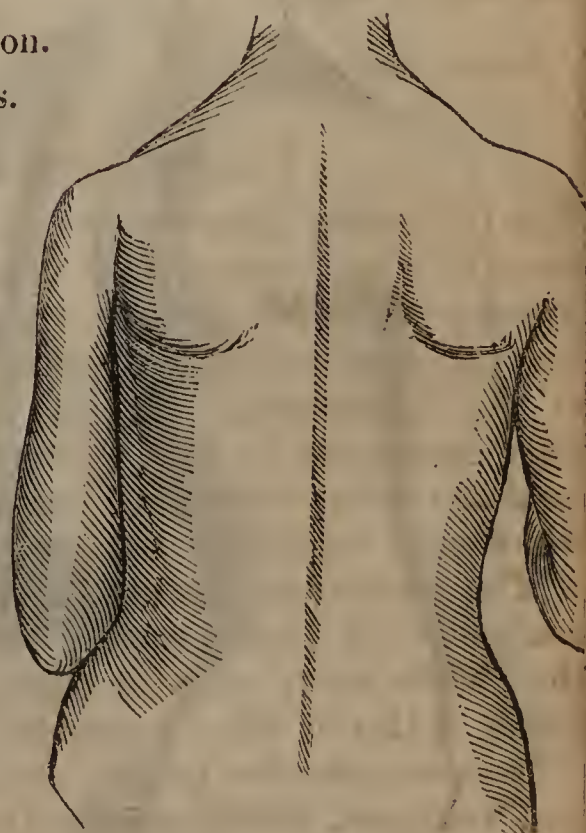


Fig. 4.
Improvement effected.

Lateral Curvature of the Spine.

The same Person.
Age 15 Years.

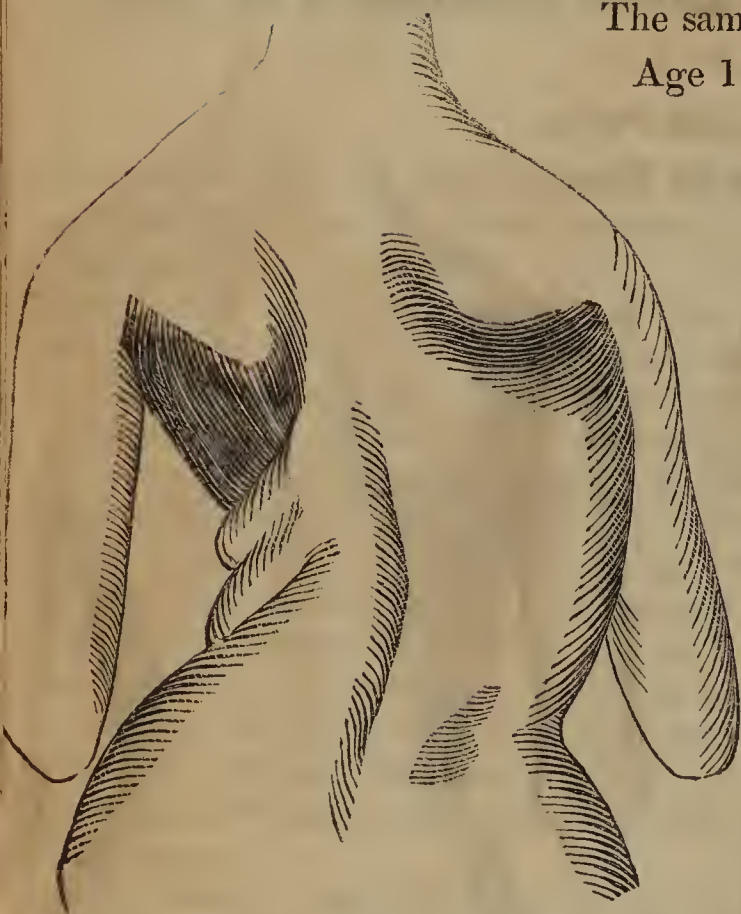


Fig. 5.
Progress of Deformity.

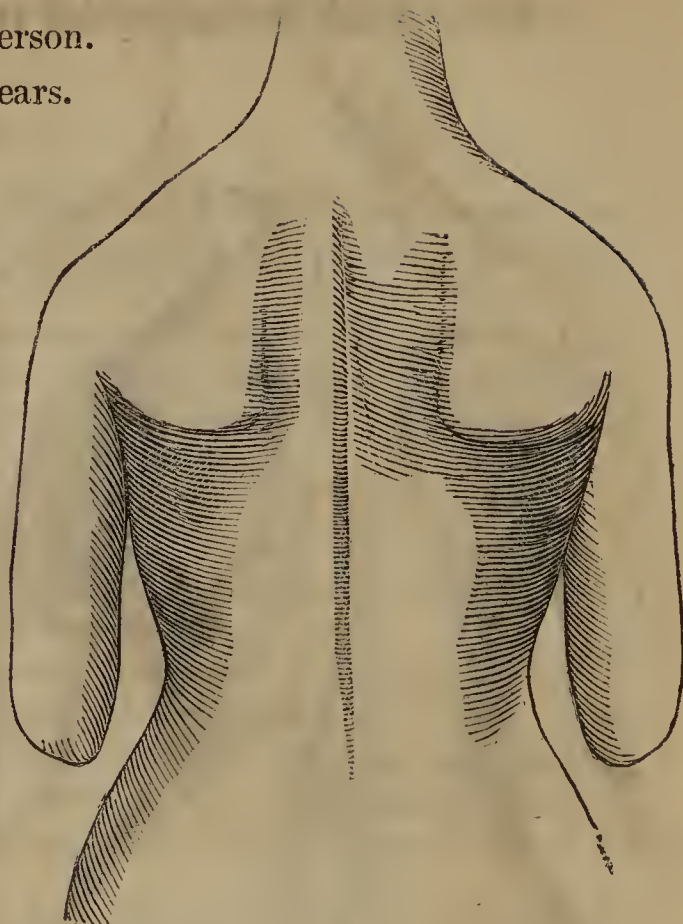


Fig. 6.
Improvement effected.

The same Person.
Age 19 Years.

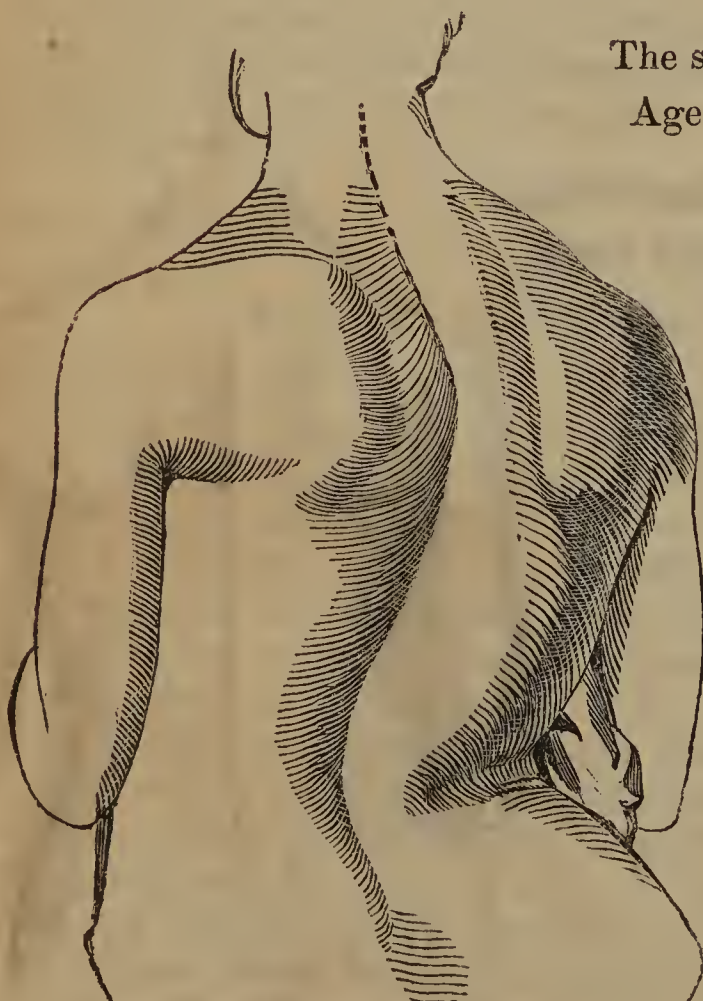


Fig. 7.
Progress of Deformity.

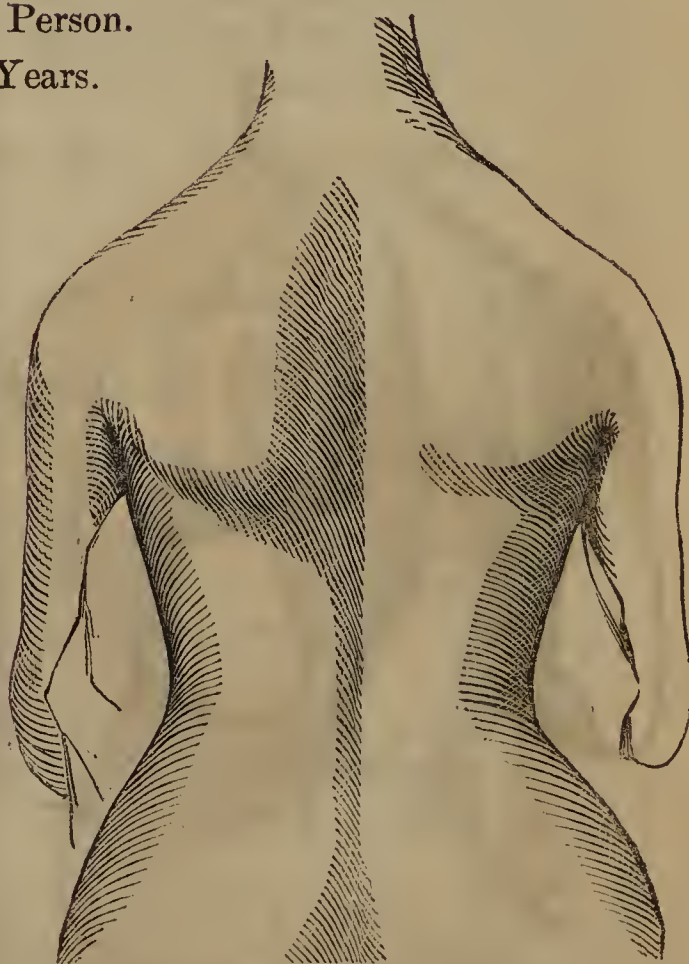


Fig. 8.
Improvement effected.

Lateral Curvature of the Spine.

The same Person.
Age 25 Years.

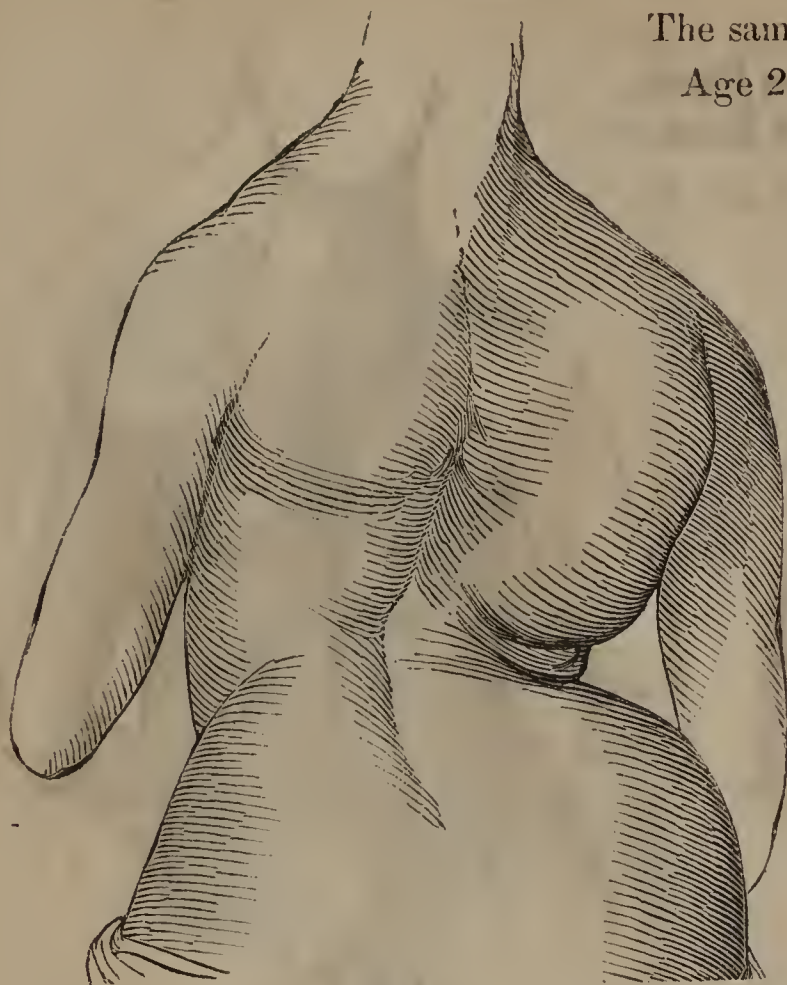


Fig. 9.
Progress of Deformity.

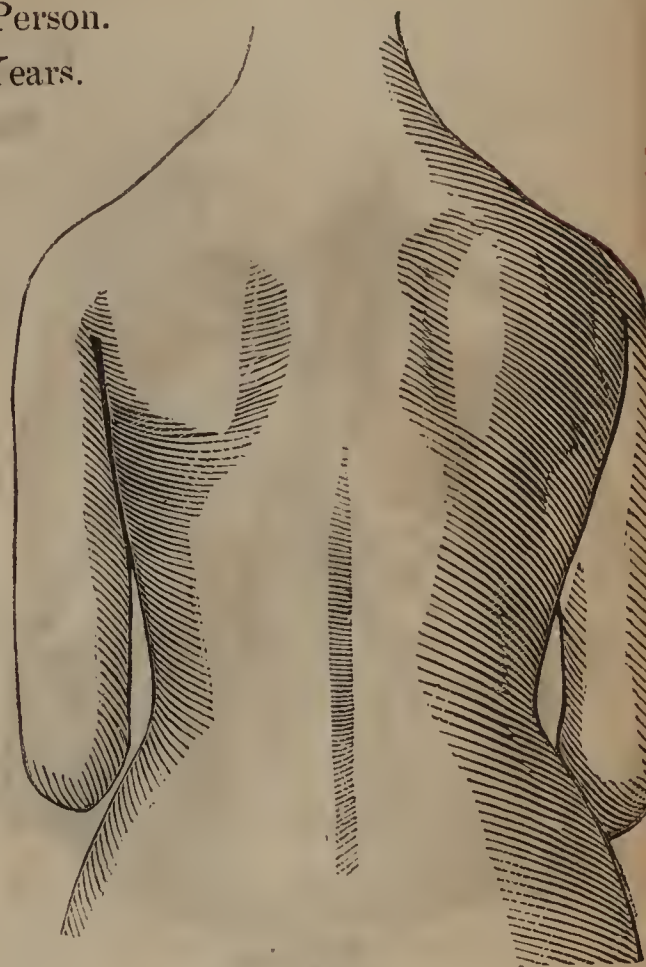


Fig. 10.
Improvement effected.

The same Person.
Age 20 Years.

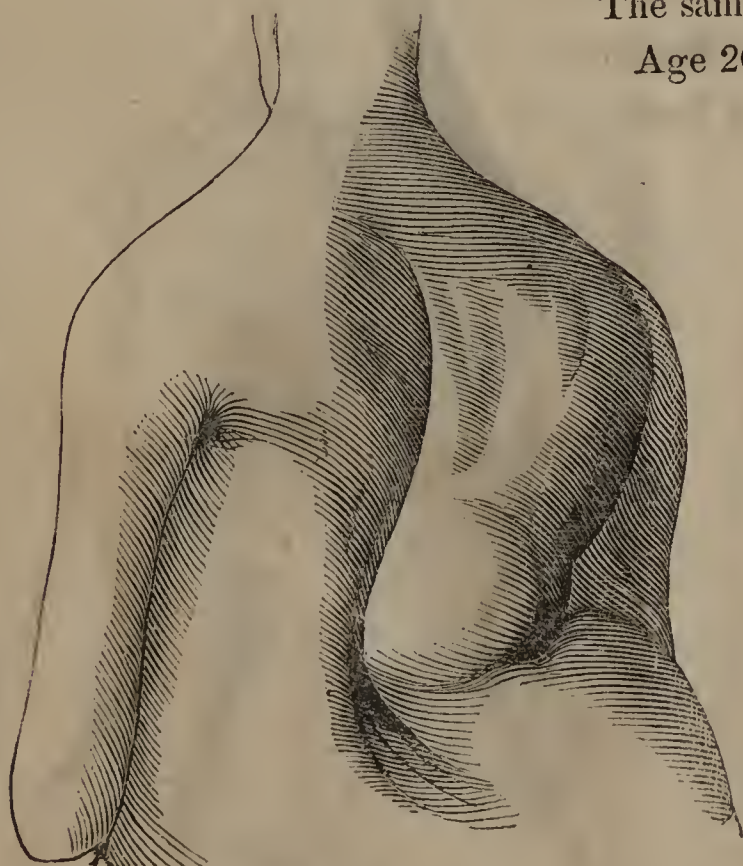


Fig. 11.
Progress of Deformity.

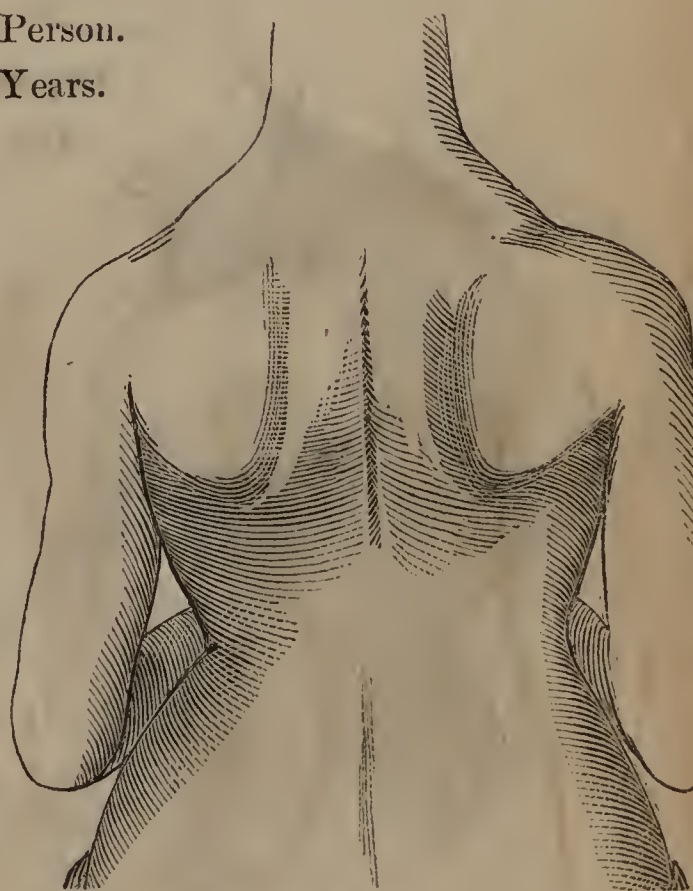


Fig. 12
Improvement effected.

Lateral Curvature of the Spine.

The same Person.
Age 8 Years.

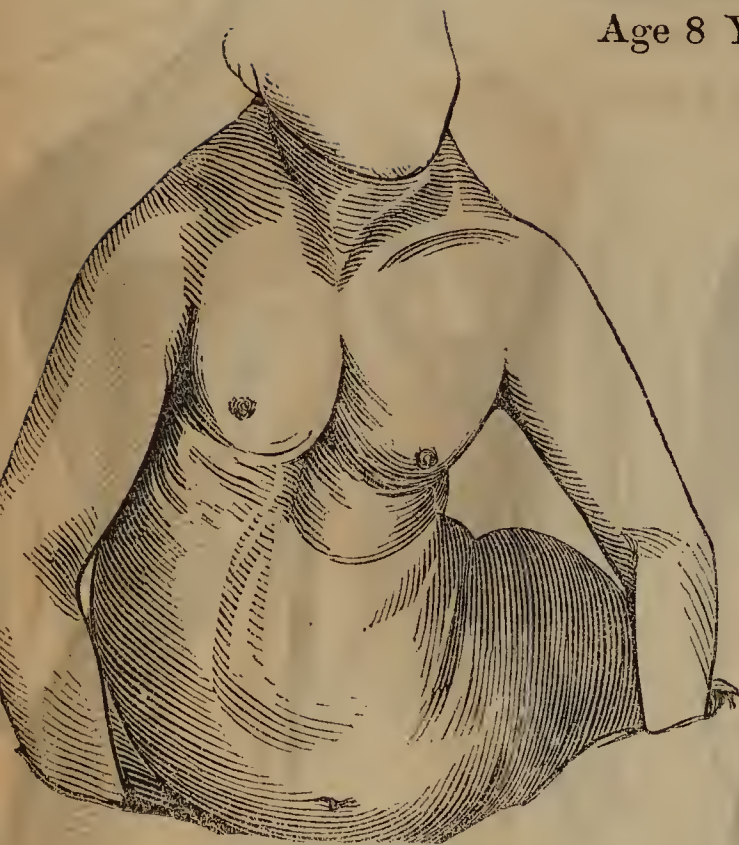


Fig. 13.
Progress of Deformity.

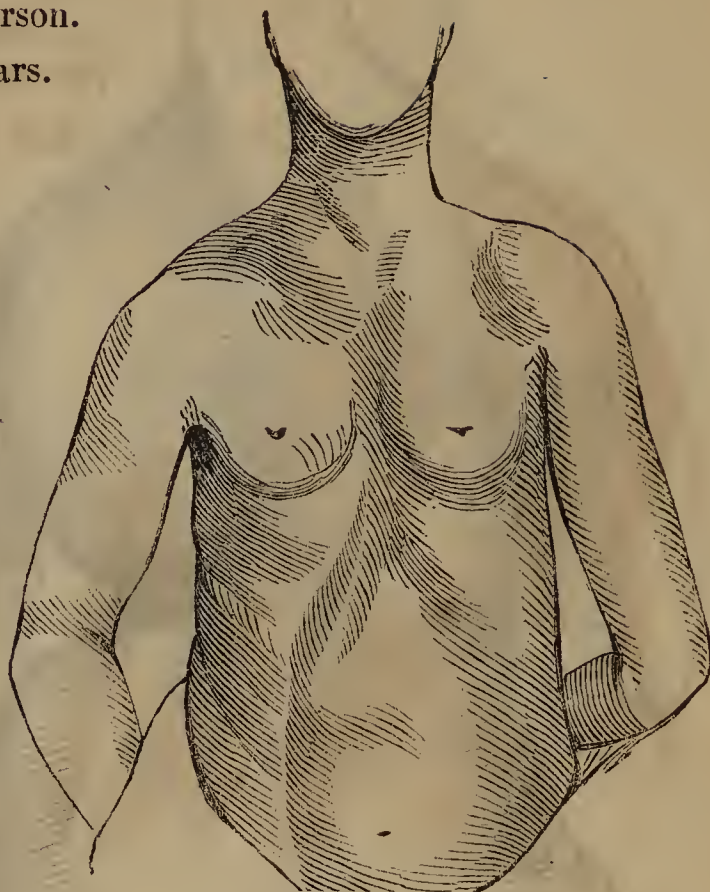


Fig. 14.
Improvement effected.

The same Person.
Age 16 Years.

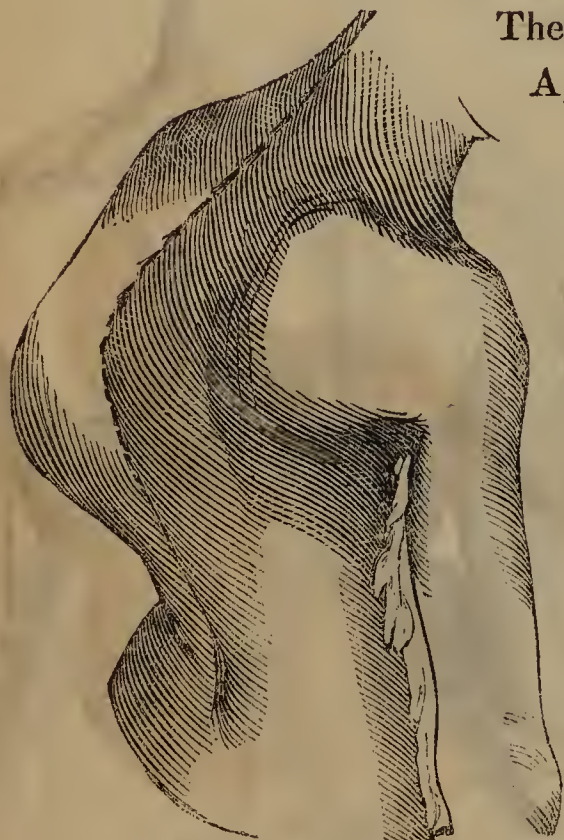


Fig. 15.
Progress of Deformity.



Fig. 16.
Improvement effected.

Lateral Curvature of the Spine.

The same Person.
Age 12 Years.

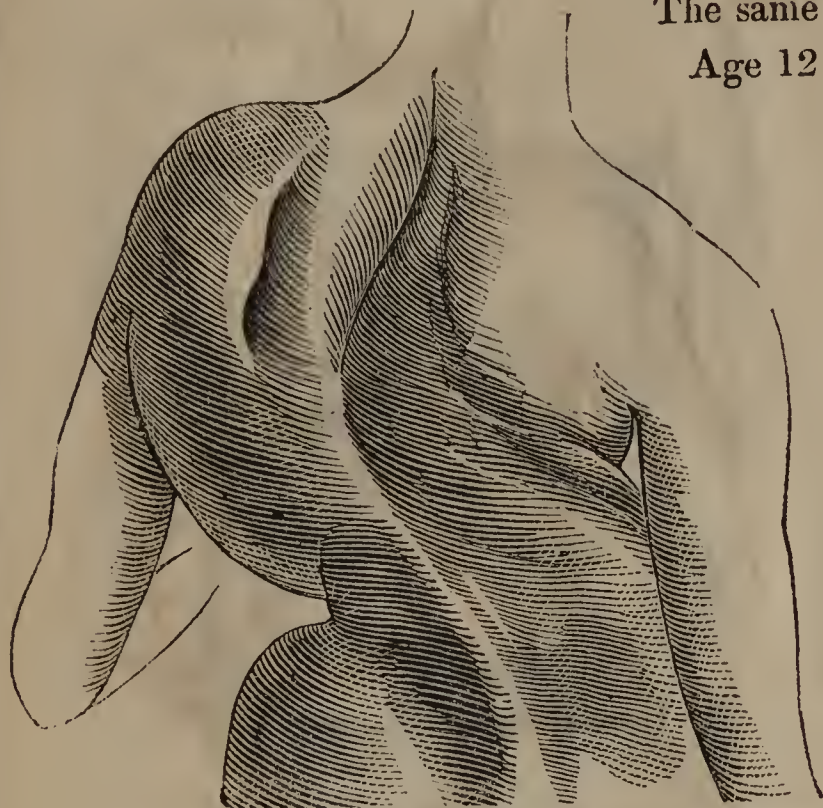


Fig. 17.
Progress of Deformity.

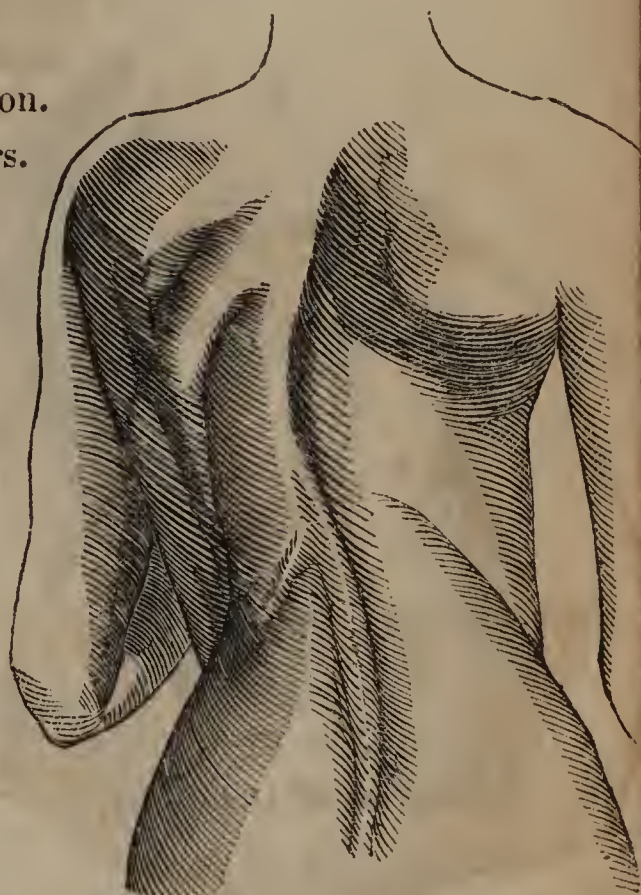


Fig. 18.
Improvement effected.

Extreme Cases of Lateral Curvature.

Different Persons.

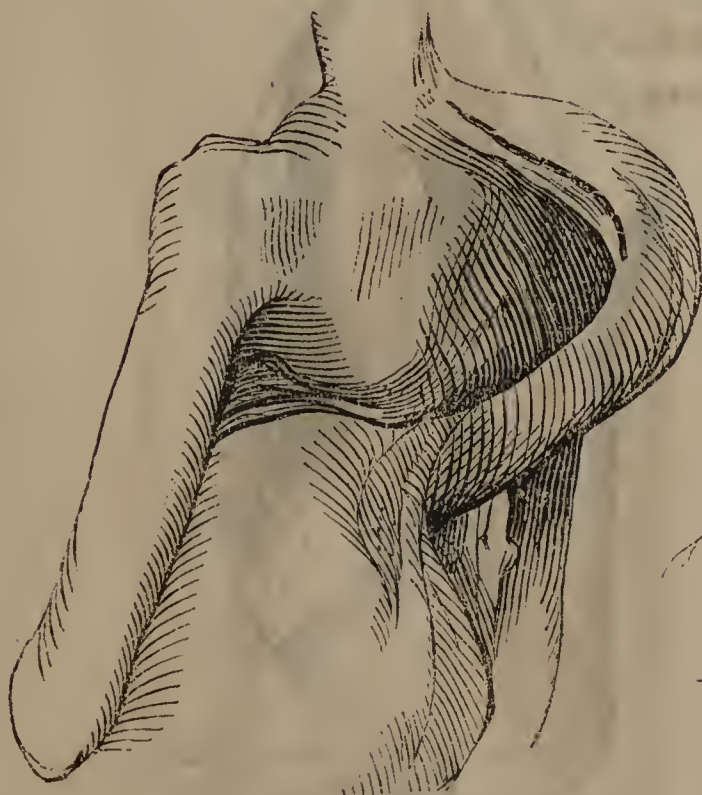


Fig. 19.
Progress of Deformity.
Age 22 Years.

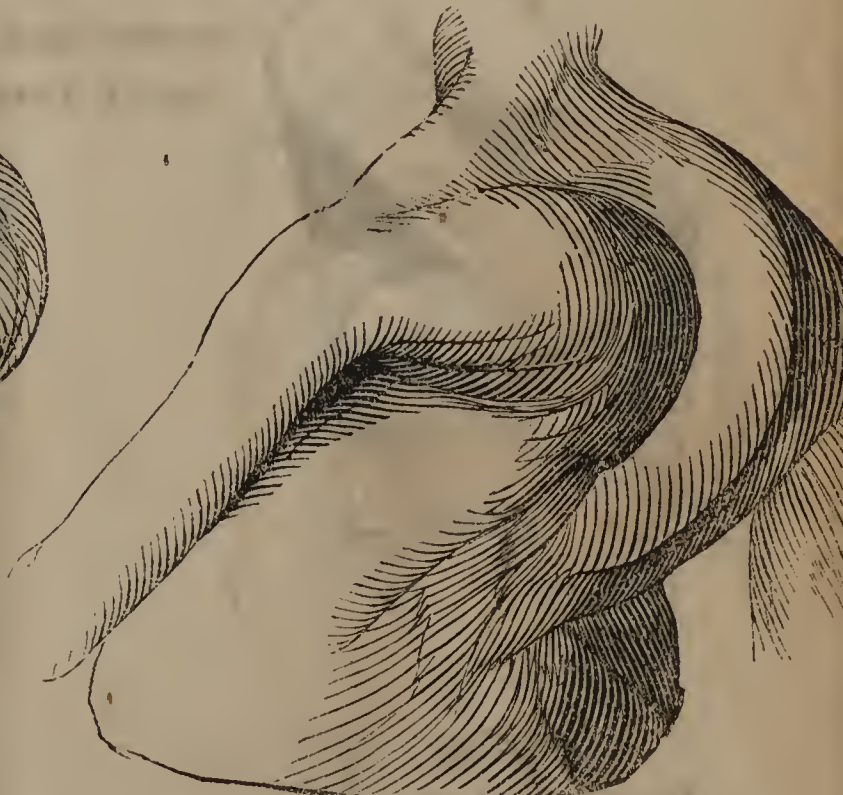


Fig. 20.
Progress of Deformity.
Age 17 Years.

Posterior Curvature of the Spine from Muscular Weakness.

The same Person.
Age 14 Years.



Fig. 21.
Progress of Deformity.

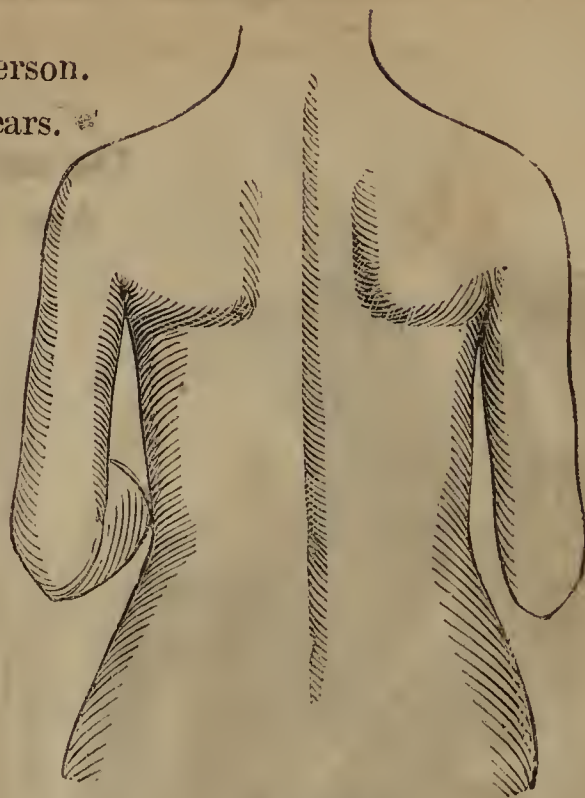


Fig. 22.
Improvement effected.

Posterior Projection of the Spine accompanied with Lumbar Abscess and Paralysis of the Lower Extremities.

The same Person.
Age 2 Years.

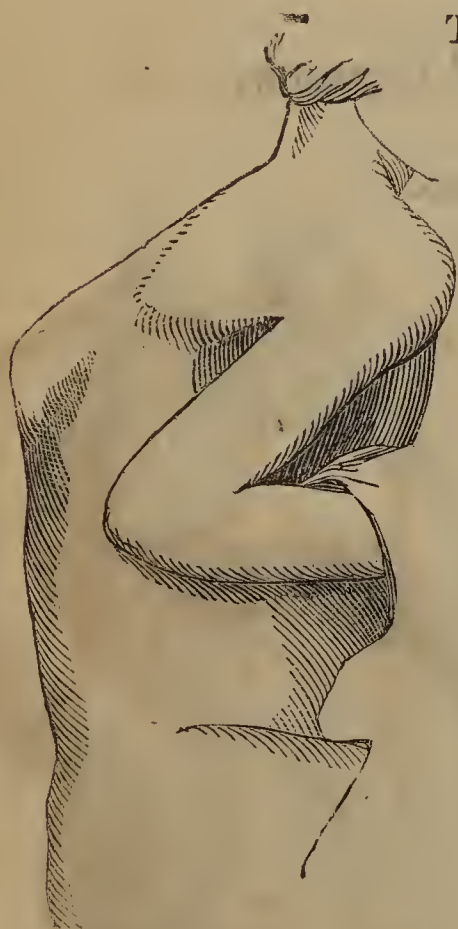


Fig. 23.
Progress of Deformity.

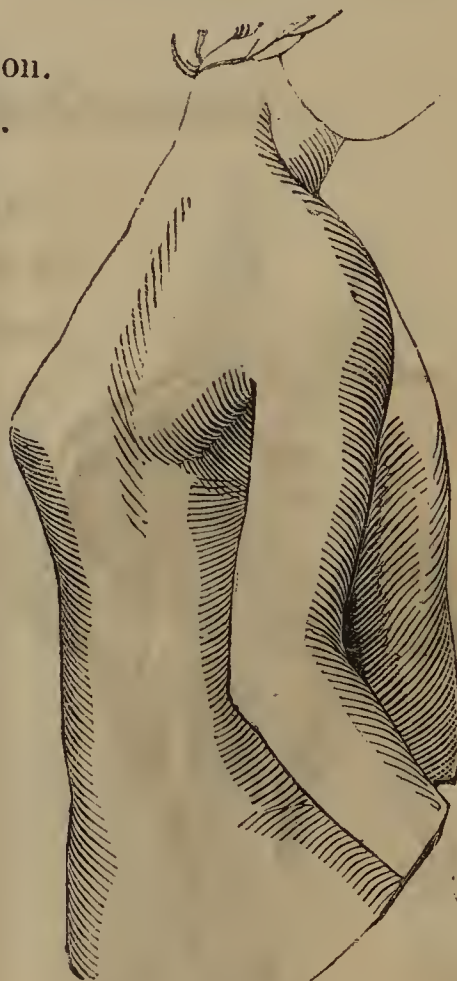


Fig. 24.
Improvement in Figure.
The Lumbar Abscesses healed, and the
power of the Limbs restored.

*Lateral Contraction of the Chest, with enlargement of the Abdomen,
as it manifests itself in young Children.*

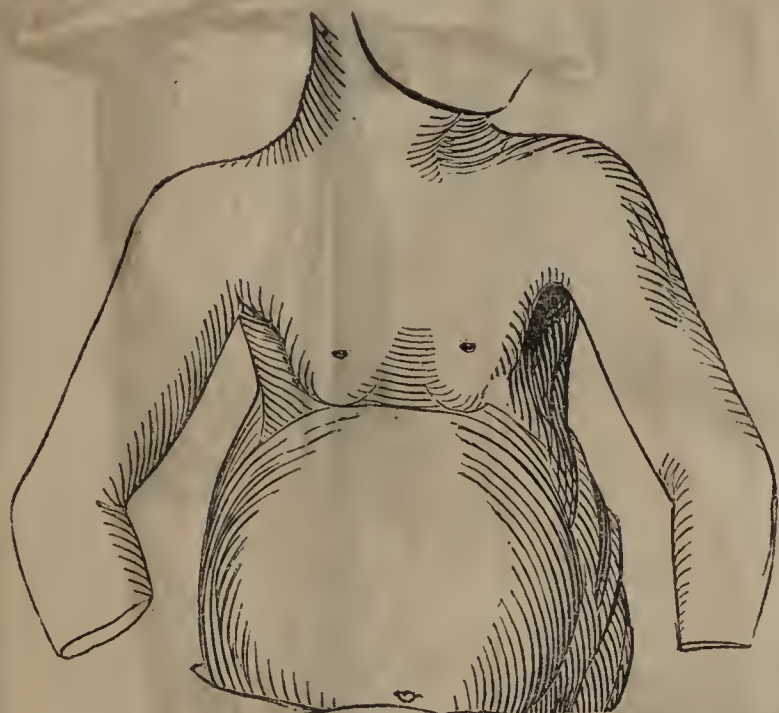


Fig. 25.
Progress of Deformity.

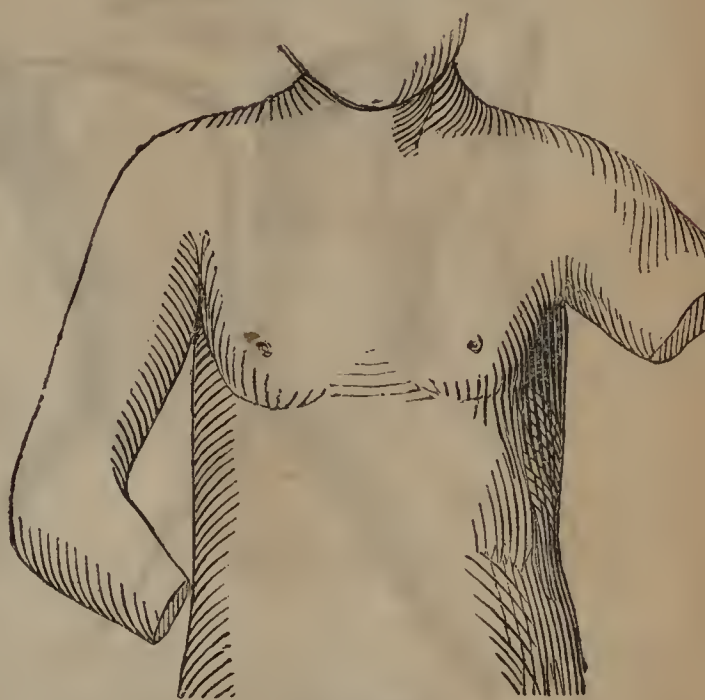


Fig. 26.
Improvement effected.

Anterior and Lateral Contraction of the Chest.

The same Person.
Age 13 Years.

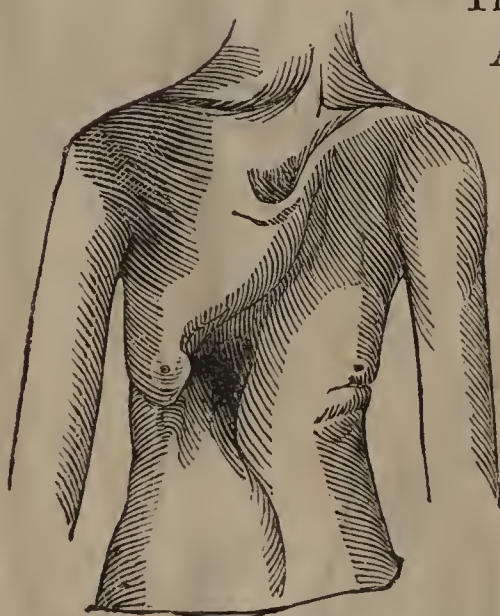


Fig. 27.
Progress of Deformity.

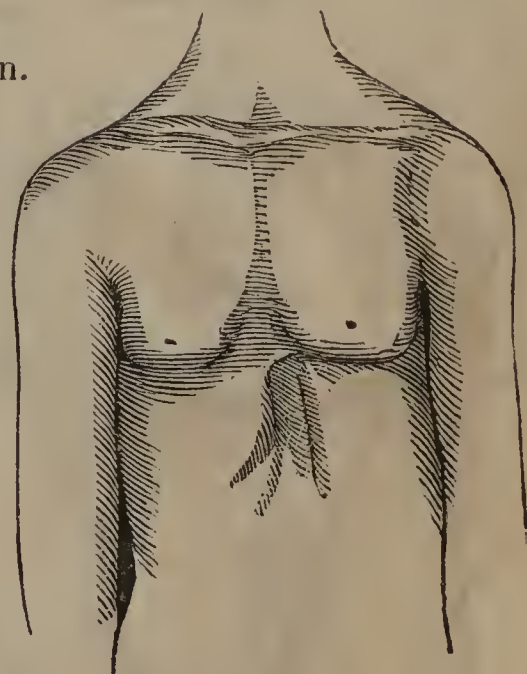


Fig. 28.
Improvement effected.

Deformities of the Lower Extremities from yielding of the Knee and Ankle Joints.

In-Knee.

The same Person.

Age 6 Years.



Fig. 29.
Progress of Deformity.



Fig. 30.
Improvement effected.

Out-Knee.

The same Person.

Age 14 Years.

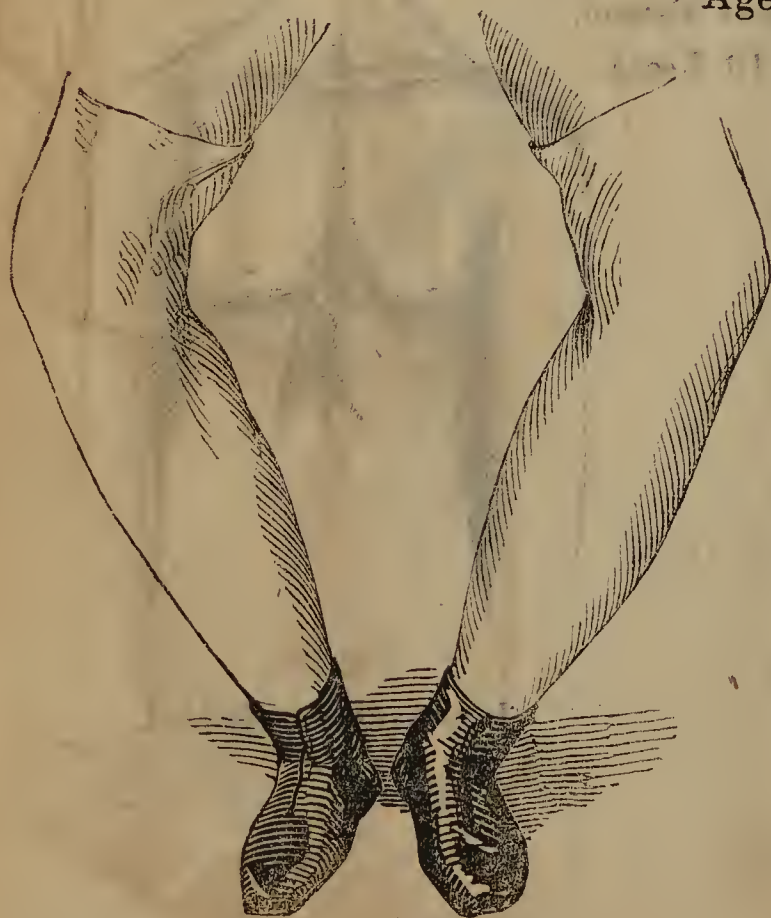


Fig. 31.
Progress of Deformity.



Fig. 32.
Improvement effected.

The same Person.
Age about 4 Years.



Fig. 33.
Progress of Deformity.



Fig. 34.
Improvement effected.

Deformity in the Back, the Lower Extremities bent upon the Body, crossed, and fixed from long continued disease in both Hip-Joints. The Boy had no power of extending his Limbs, nor of separating them, nor of standing, but as seen in Fig. 35.

The same Person.
Age 17 Years.

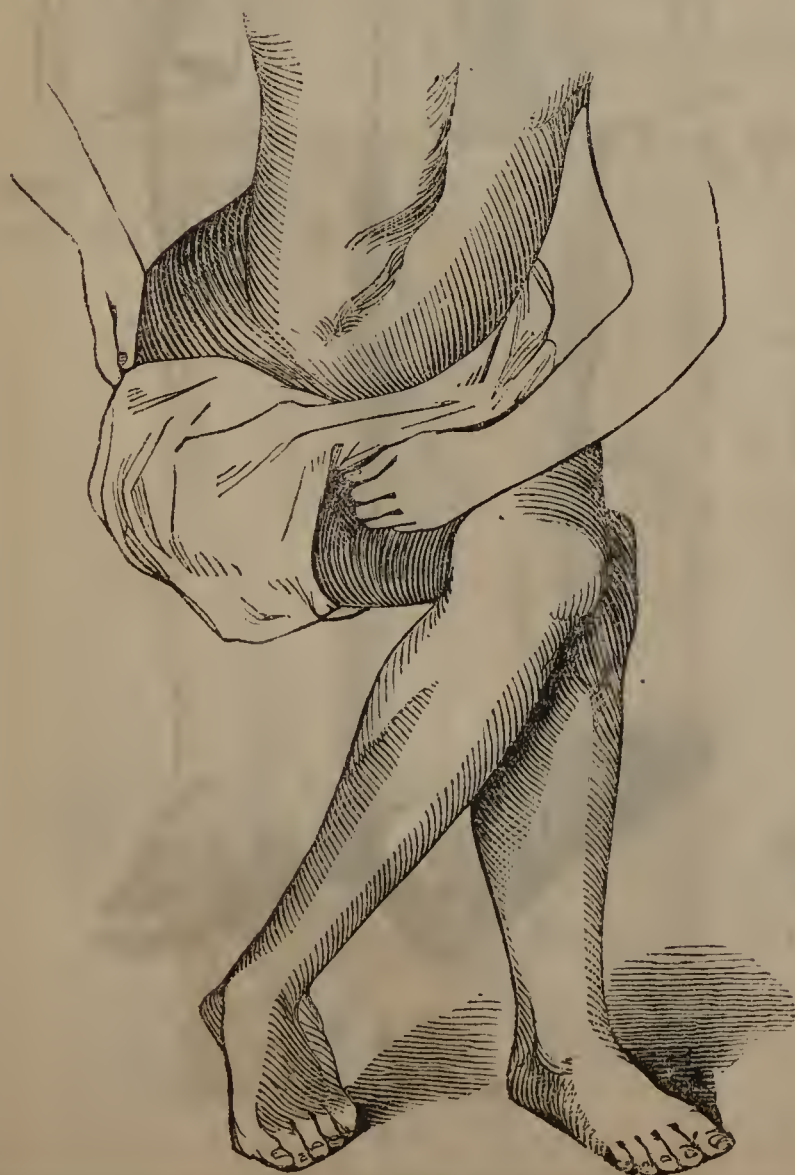


Fig. 35

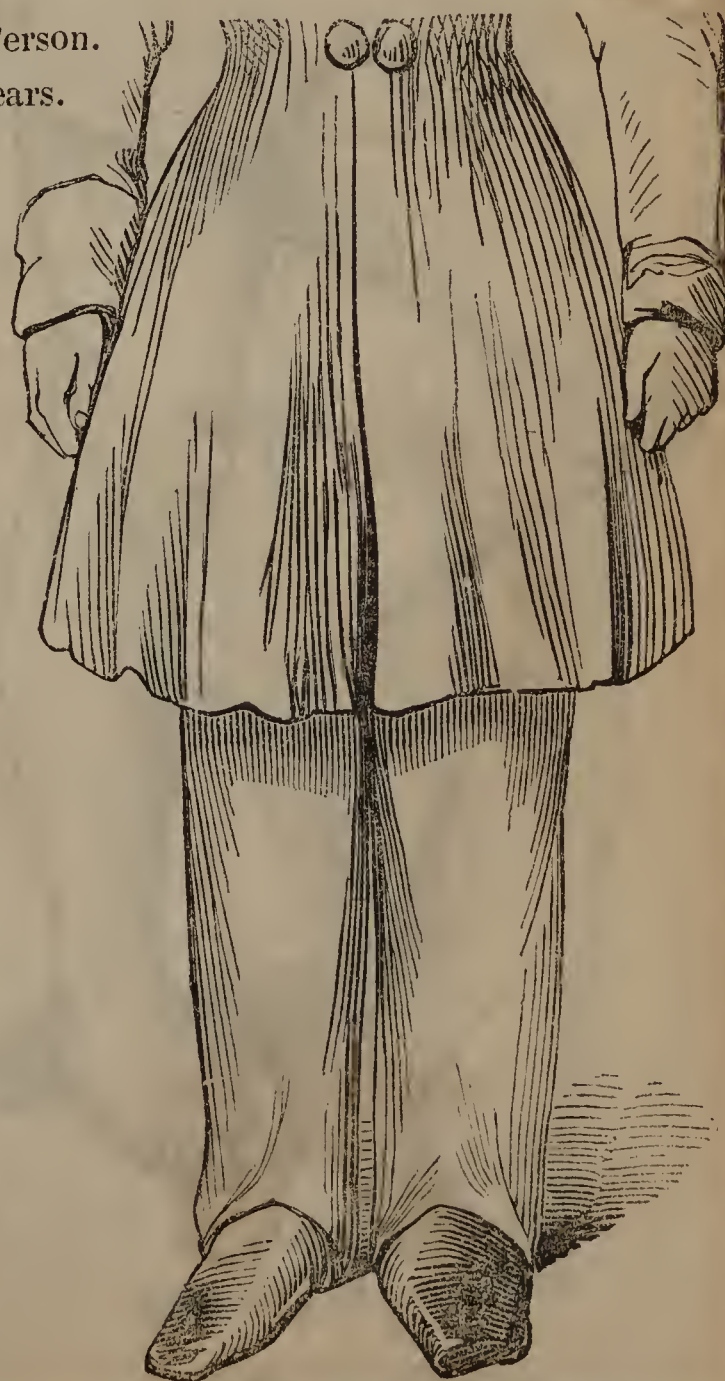


Fig. 36

Out-Knee from Deformity of the Bones of the Legs.

The same Person.

Age $3\frac{1}{2}$ Years.



Fig. 37.

Progress of Deformity.

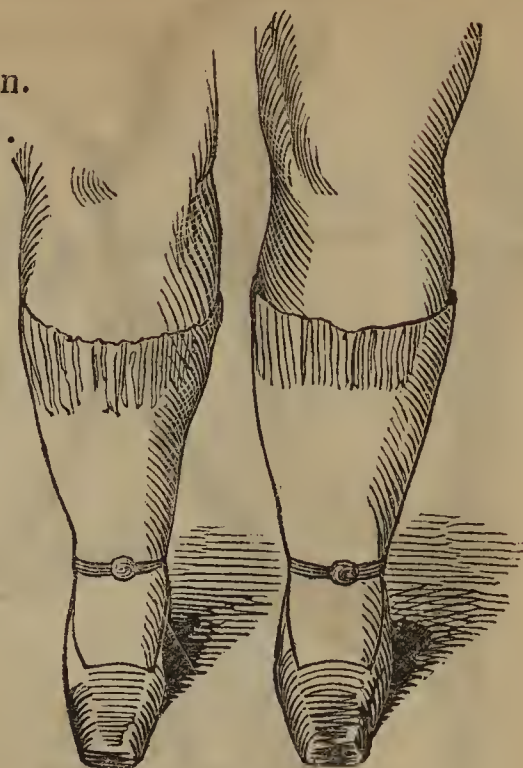


Fig. 38.

Improvement effected.

Contraction of the Hip and Knee Joints from long-continued and destructive Disease.

The same Person.

Age 13

Years.



Fig. 39.

Progress of Deformity.

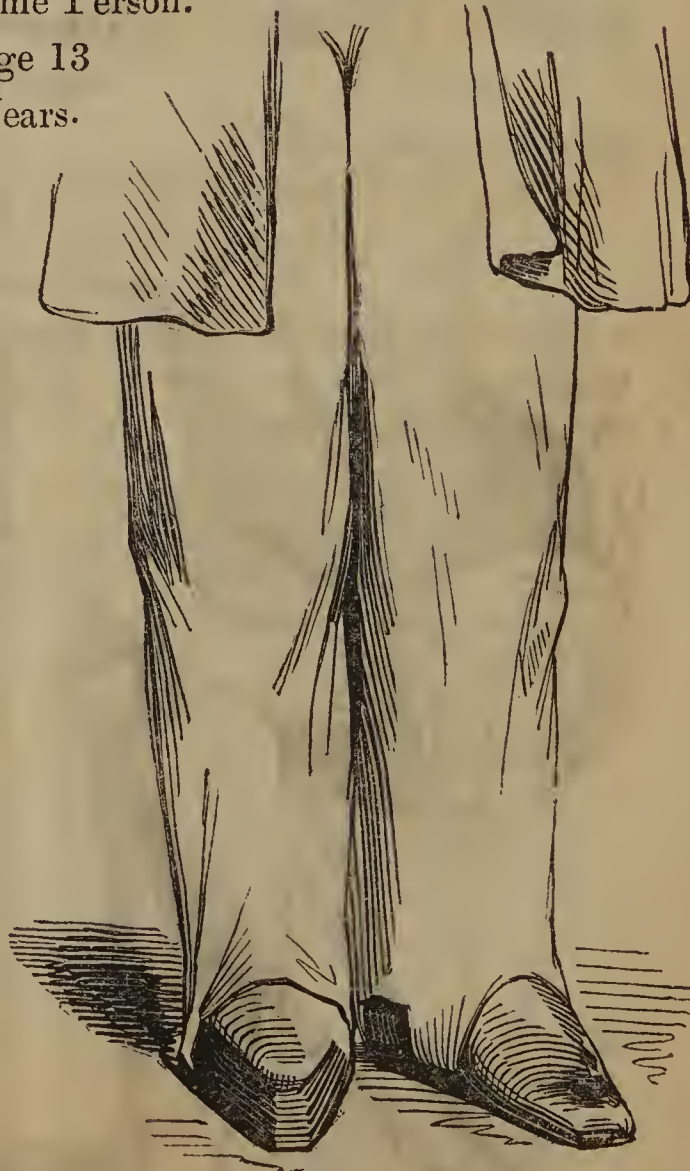


Fig. 40.

Improvement effected.

An extreme Case of In-Knee arising from partial Paralysis and Contraction of the Muscles. In such Cases the use of the Apparatus cannot be discontinued with impunity.

The same Person.
Age 14 Years.

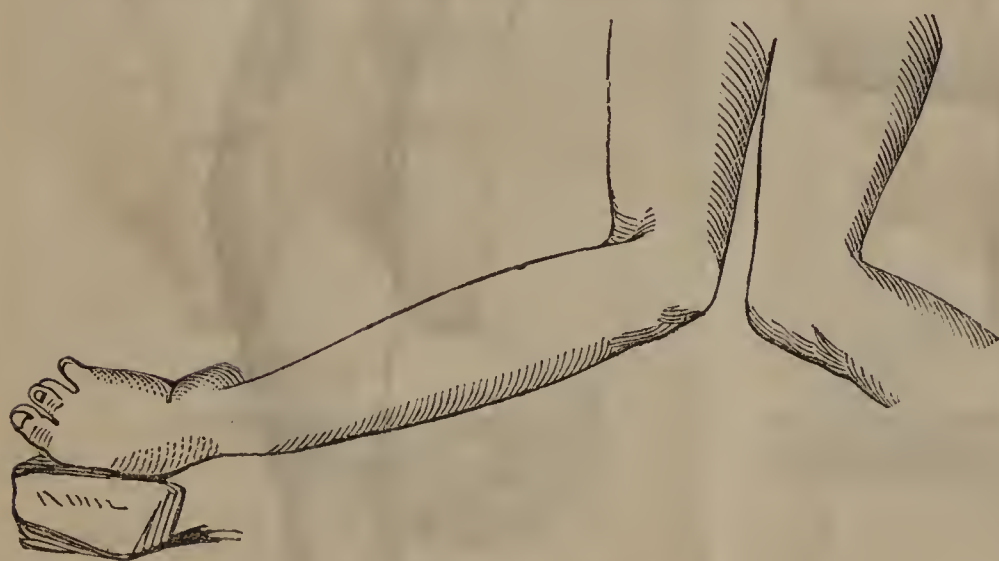


Fig. 41.
Progress of Deformity.

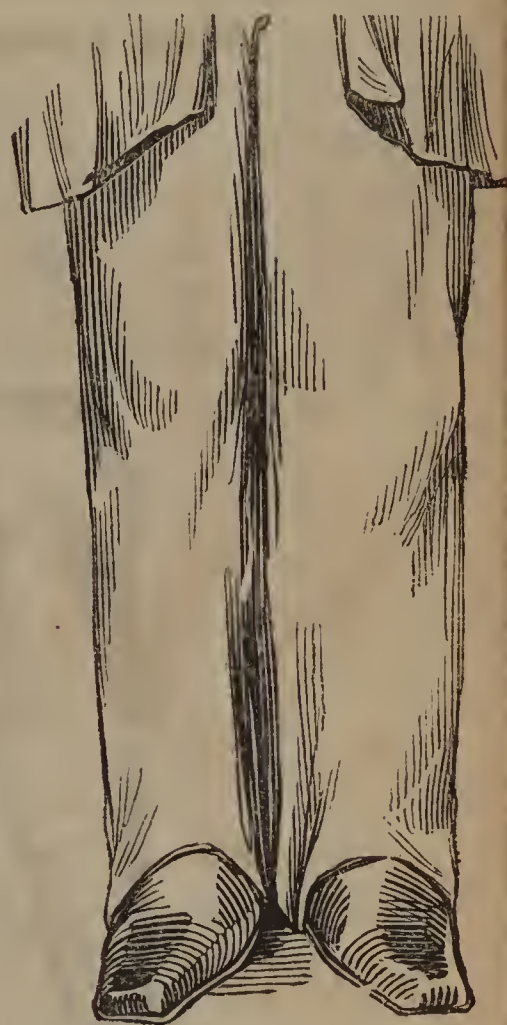


Fig. 42.
Improvement effected with the
use of Apparatus.

Contracted Knees, Club Foot, and In-Ankle arising from partial Paralysis and Contraction of the Muscles.

This patient had never walked when the treatment commenced, but she is now enabled to do so with the use of the apparatus.

The same Person.
Age 14 Years.

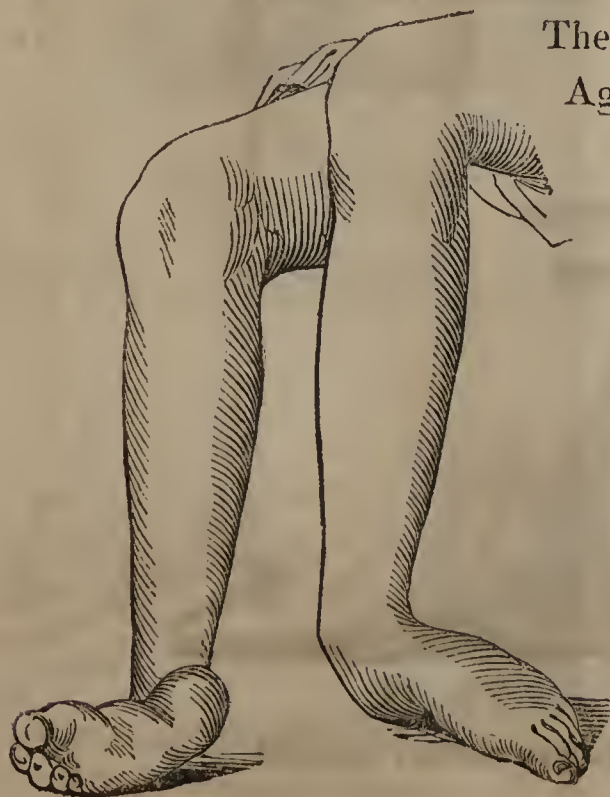


Fig. 43.
Progress of Deformity.

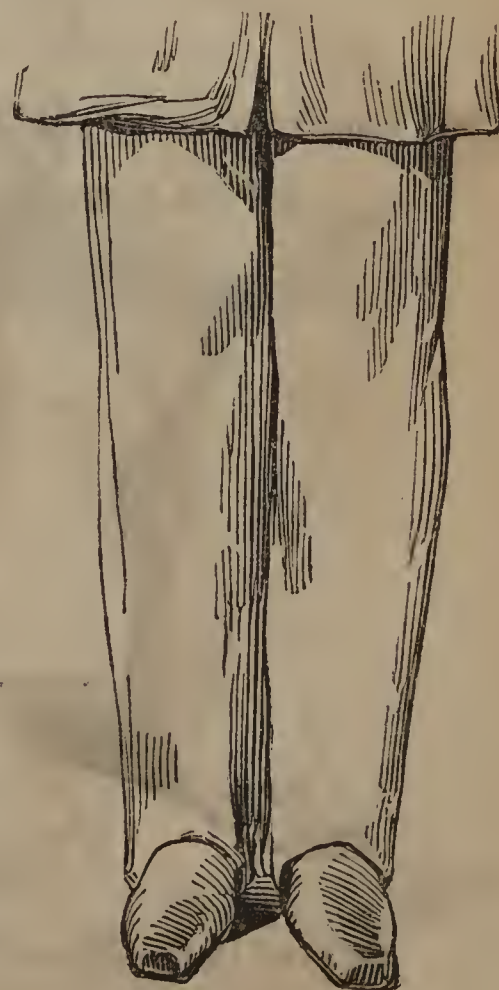


Fig. 44.
Improvement effected.

Fixed Contraction of the Knee without Disease.

The same Person.
Age 33 Years.

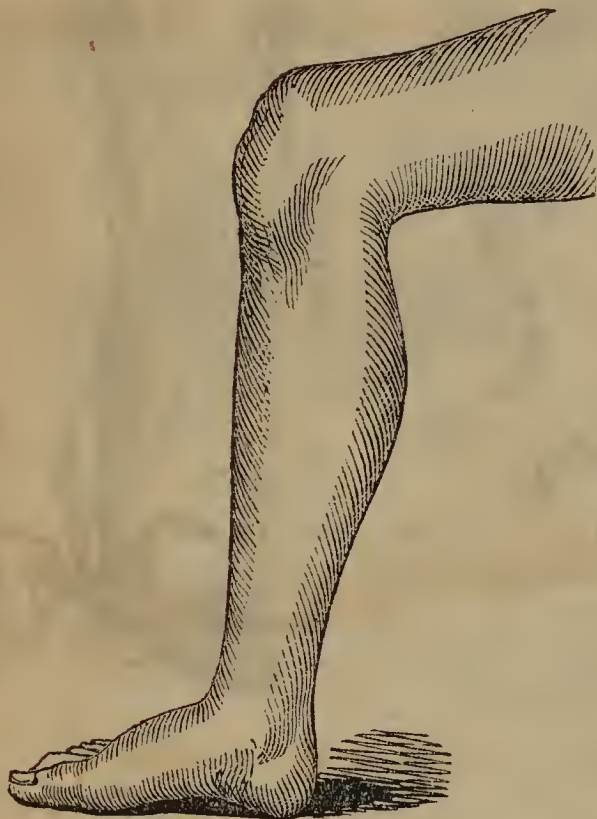


Fig. 45.
State of Deformity.

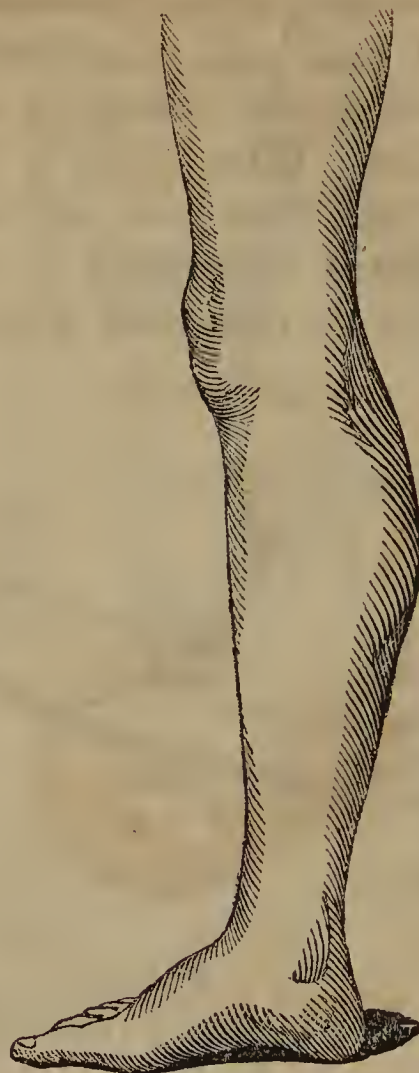


Fig. 46.
Improvement effected.

Fixed Contraction of the Muscles of the back of the Leg by which the Foot becomes fixed in the extended position.



Fig. 47.
State of Deformity.

The same Person.
Age 18 Years.



Fig. 48.
Improvement effected.

Deformities of the ankles and feet differ very much in appearance. These differences indicate different conditions of the affected parts, and the consequent necessity of modifications of treatment suited to each condition. In many of these cases there is only a degree of weakness of certain muscles, and preternatural contraction of others. Such cases often admit of perfect restoration. When there is perfect paralysis in any of the muscles the natural form of the parts can be restored; but in such cases the continual use of apparatus is necessary to assist the patient in standing and walking, and to prevent the recurrence of distortion.

Out-Ankle.



Fig. 49.
State of Deformity.

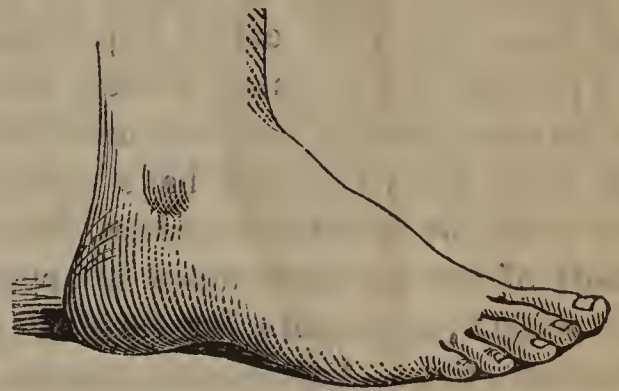


Fig. 50.
Improvement effected.

In-Ankle.



Fig. 51.
State of Deformity.



Fig. 52.
Improvement effected.

Flat Foot, from yielding of the Arch.



Fig. 53.
State of Deformity.



Fig. 54.
Improvement effected.

Some have suggested that it would have been more conducive to the public good if the plans of treatment introduced by Mr. Amesbury had been at once thrown open to the medical profession. Experience, however, proves that this opinion is not founded in fact.

The following extracts from Mr. Amesbury's address to his professional brethren, taken from his 4to work on Deformities, &c., published in 1840, will serve to show his views upon this point, and they will be to most persons sufficiently conclusive.

"I have found on former occasions that my inventions have been improperly constructed, and that their utility has been greatly diminished by vain, ignorant, and unprincipled persons, who have mutilated my apparatus so that the principles which I have pointed out could no longer be carried into effect by them, and have introduced what they have called improvements, by which the originals, like the painter's picture, are so much hidden, that I should be ashamed to acknowledge them to be mine, though they are made to bear my name."

"For many years surgeons have rarely been furnished with my apparatus for fractures of the trunk and extremities, made according to my principles and plans. The result of this has been much disappointment on the part of those who have honestly sought to procure for their patients those advantages which they are capable of affording. Patients have needlessly suffered much pain and confinement, and many other evils arising partly from this cause, and on other occasions from the misapplication and mismanagement of my means, and the burthen of all this has been cast upon my shoulders. Hence it appeared to me most expedient, in the introduction of apparatus requiring much more care in manufacture, application, and management than any I had previously invented, to secure to myself the entire control of them for a time; and, independent of all other considerations, I believe that this will ultimately be found the safest and most advantageous mode of proceeding which I could have adopted for the profession as well as the public."

From these observations it is evident that a system of Orthopædic treatment, requiring for its success a perfect knowledge of many, and more or less delicately complicated apparatus, and also a perfect knowledge of their application and management under all the stages and conditions of Deformity, Contraction, and Muscular Weakness, could not be safely intrusted even to the most eminent medical practitioners who are unacquainted with the principles of that system and of the construction of the means employed, and also of the manifold and variously combined effects which they are made to produce upon the Human body in order to remove those maladies and to restore its natural form and functions.

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL REGULATIONS ILLUSTRATE THE PLAN TO BE ADOPTED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ORTHOPÆDIC INSTITUTION.

THE general affairs of the Institution to be conducted by a Board of non-medical Directors, to be chosen from among the Proprietors.

The Professional Department to be conducted by a Board of five Profes-

sional Managers, one to be chief, and called the General Professional Manager.

The Professional Managers to have the rank of Consulting Surgeons to the Institution, and to be appointed by the Directors, subject to the approbation of the Proprietors.

The Professional Managers to be medical gentlemen, legally qualified to practise medicine and surgery, and duly instructed in, and practically acquainted with, Orthopædic Surgery in general, and as sanctioned by this Institution in particular.

The general duties of the Professional Managers will consist in advising the Directors in all matters relative to the professional Department of the Institution; to ascertain the proper places for private Branch Establishments, and to advise the Directors respecting the proper periods for opening the same; to instruct surgeons who are shareholders, and who are conditionally appointed to hold the office of Surgeon or Assistant-Surgeon to the private Branch Establishments, as the same may be opened from time to time.

The Directors will place every Branch Establishment, as may be expedient, under the charge and professional care of a surgeon in every respect competent to fulfil the professional duties of the same, but subject to the superintendence and approbation of the Consulting Surgeons of the Institution.

Every such Establishment will be arranged and conducted with due regard to propriety and comfort, and in such a manner as is found to be most conducive to the health, strength, and restoration of the patients.

All Officers of the Institution will be subject to suspension or removal in case of inefficiency, misconduct, or neglect of duty.

Classification and Regulations respecting Patients admissible into the Private Establishments.

RESPECTABLE persons requiring Orthopædic treatment are admitted into the private Orthopædic Establishments of the Institution, and pay the Institution for professional and all other advantages connected with their cases respectively. The patients of each sex are divided into three classes, first, second, and third, with due regard to their rank in society.

Exceptions are made in favour of medical gentlemen, their wives, or widows and children, who will enjoy, under certain regulations, the privilege of being admitted free of costs for professional attendance.

Exceptions will also be made in favour of such patients as may obtain a recommendation signed by any proprietor, or proprietors, holding twenty Shares in the Institution. Each patient so recommended, being of a rank to be admitted into one of the private Orthopædic classes of the Institution, and in other respects eligible, will on admission be entitled to gratuitous professional attendance; or to such diminution in the charges for the same as may be determined. The Proprietors will be empowered to exercise annually the privilege of signing such recommendations.

The general Regulations which it is purposed to adopt in the private Establishments of the Institution are those now observed in Mr. Amesbury's.

IN this Establishment the patients are divided into classes, and arranged according to the nature of their complaints. For example—Ladies labouring under muscular weakness and Lateral Curvature of the spine only, attend together in the Orthopædic rooms. These are divided into three classes :—

In class 1, Select.

In class 2, Gentlemen's daughters.

In class 3, Respectable tradesmen's daughters.

Patients remain in the Establishment four hours daily, and in the course of that time are visited and attended professionally by Mr. Amesbury, who is the Surgeon of the Establishment.

The ladies superintending the several classes take all proper oversight and care of the patients during the hours of their attendance.

Any lady may be accompanied by a female friend or her private governess.

Patients reside with their friends, or (if desired) with the superintendents of their respective classes.

In conclusion it should be stated, that it is not intended, by this Institution, to interfere with the established rights of the medical profession, but to open to them a channel, through the members of their own body, for the relief and cure of complaints which, in the course of general practice, they are confessedly unable to manage; and to put them in a condition to cultivate a field, advantageously to all parties, which to them has been hitherto almost barren. It is therefore hoped that medical gentlemen in general will be ready to co-operate in bringing into their several neighbourhoods the practice recommended by this Institution. This they will be enabled to do under a course of regulations which it is considered will be satisfactory to every department of the profession.

Inquiries may be made at the Office of the Institution, No. 8, Berners-street, Oxford-street, London; where Prospectuses and Statements may be obtained.

JAS. CLEMENTS, Secretary.